

Interview Guide for IRB

I am interested in your perspectives about carnivores in the Great Bear Rainforest area including black bears, grizzly bears, cougars, and wolves. Your input will help identify pressing issues with these species and the negative and positive aspects of carnivores, as well as the current management practices regarding these carnivores.

Past Experiences

- Which of the following species have you seen in the past year: black bear, grizzly bear, cougar, wolf?
 - Where did the sighting(s) occur?
- How did you feel when you saw the animal?
 - Follow-up with the interviewee to discuss the circumstances and if it was positive or negative.
- Do you benefit in any way from having these carnivore populations in the Great Bear Rainforest?
 - Between black bears, grizzly bears, cougars, and wolves, is there a species that benefits you more than another?
- Did you experience any negative impacts from a carnivore in the past year? If not, what about at any time in the past?
 - For each note, the circumstances and which carnivore was responsible.
- Do you have any concerns about safety regarding these carnivores? Are you concerned about your safety or that of your family, pets, or livestock?
- Do you think that carnivores are negatively impacting the caribou population in the area?
 - If so, which carnivore species is having the greatest impact? On what do you base this assessment?
- Do you think carnivores are negatively impacting any other wildlife populations in the Great Bear Rainforest?
- Do you think that there are too many carnivores in the Great Bear Rainforest? If so, is there a carnivore species in particular that you think is too numerous?
- Are there any other positive or negative aspects of carnivores within the Great Bear Rainforest region?
- Do you consider any carnivore species to be culturally or spiritually important?

Carnivore Management

The following questions cover aspects of carnivore management in the Great Bear Rainforest.

- Currently 85% of the Great Bear Rainforest is protected and 15% is available for logging. What are your thoughts on the protection of such a large portion of forest?

-Should more land be available to industries such as forestry? Are there other uses that should be prioritized?

- Do you think that carnivores in the Great Bear Rainforest are being managed well? Is there anything that you would like to see changed?

- Should trophy hunting of carnivores be permitted within the Great Bear Rainforest, or only sustenance hunting? Why do you think that?

- In 2017, British Columbia established a ban on all grizzly bear trophy hunting. What do you think about this new regulation?

- British Columbia also issued a ban on all grizzly bear hunting within the Great Bear Rainforest, except that First Nations will still be able to harvest grizzly bears. What do you think about this regulation?

- In order to protect caribou populations, do you believe it would be more effective to implement hunting restrictions or wolf culls?

- Do you think Prince Rupert should have a local conservation officer?

-What do you think about how the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is currently handling issues with carnivores?

- Which persons or groups do you think are affecting carnivore management decisions, regardless of the official authority of the persons or groups?

- Do you think that any policy changes are needed to better address carnivore management?

- What types of actions would you personally take to minimize human-carnivore conflicts? For instance, would you take direct action against a carnivore or are there changes that you could make to your own practices that would reduce conflicts?